

ATTACHMENT - REMARKS

In order to expedite the prosecution, claim 6 has been amended to more clearly define over the prior art. The amendments to the claims are supported, *inter alia*, by lines 10 and 11 of page 5, which state that “[t]he mounting member 12 includes a relatively thin disc having an increased wall thickness toward its axis”; line 7 of page 4, which states that “the mounting member is either disc-shaped or in the form of a cylinder”; and lines 22 and 23 of page 5, which state that “[t]he sports ball valve is as such of a bulbous configuration.”

It is respectfully submitted that claim 6 and the claims dependent thereof patentably define over the prior art, viz., Le Clair and Olsen, by reciting, *inter alia*, that the valve element is of a “bulbous configuration” (which is fundamentally different from the prior art valve elements), and that the mounting member is “disc-shaped” (in contrast to the mounting member of Le Clair which is generally cylindrical or barrel-shaped).

It is noted that a new claim 26 has been added which is directed to the combination of a sports ball and a sports ball valve, the valve being the valve claimed in amended claim 6. It is respectfully submitted that this combination further defines over the Le Clair patent which is directed to a “valved lubrication nozzle.” Support for new claim 26 is provided, *inter alia*, by lines 6 and 7 of page 1, which state that “[t]he valve 1 is encased in a casing 2 that is glued or otherwise affixed to an inflatable bladder 3” (albeit in the context of the prior art) and lines 1-3 of page 6, which state that the “sports ball valve 10 is fitted to a sports ball or sports ball bladder in a traditional manner where for example it is glued or otherwise adhered to the inner surface of the ball.” For the

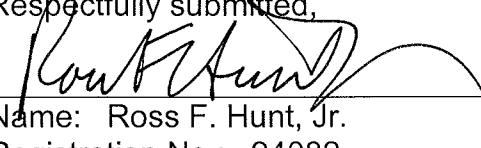
reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 26 also patentably defines over the Le Clair reference.

Allowance of the application in its present form is respectfully solicited.

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Signed By
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Respectfully submitted,


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